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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: In the book of Judges, Lord God, the parable of the trees is told to convince Your people they do not want a monarchy. Perhaps the same parable has another meaning for people today living in this constitutional democracy.

In the parable, each tree which wishes to be king over the other trees excuses itself from leadership. The olive tree is reluctant to offer its rich oil; the fig tree, its good fruit; the vine, its intoxicating wine. So all the trees plead with the buckhorn to have authority over all the other trees. But the buckhorn has nothing to offer but its own shadow.

Lord, may each Member of Congress offer his or her very best to the work of governance. This awesome responsibility does cost them dearly. That is why, as Your people, Lord, they need our prayer.

If they do not offer all the gifts of mind and heart they are called to sacrifice for this government by the people, they can only cast a long shadow over a believable democracy.

So speak, Lord, to Your servants and allow Your gifts to flow across this Nation now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PERLMUTTER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 76. Concurrent Resolution honoring the 50th Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) and its past contributions to space research, and looking forward to future accomplishments.

The message also announced that pursuant to Executive Order 12131, as amended, the Chair appoints the following Member to the President's Export Council:

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 one-minute speeches from each side of the aisle.

PRESIDENT'S VETO OF STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, President Bush has once again used his veto pen to stifle scientific research. Yesterday, the President vetoed bipartisan legislation passed by this Congress that would have expanded potentially lifesaving stem cell research.

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act would have authorized Federal funds to be used for research on embryonic stem cell lines derived from embryos at in vitro fertilization clinics

that would otherwise have been discarded.

An overwhelming number of Americans, including doctors, scientists, health organizations, and communities of faith have been vocal in their support for this critical research because of cures it might offer to those stricken with diabetes, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, cancer, spinal cord injuries and countless other ailments.

President Bush's decision to once again veto an expansion of this research that could bring hope to millions with life-threatening and debilitating diseases is dangerous to those who are suffering. This Democratic House will continue to push for Federal funding of this ethical and critically necessary research.

LONESTAR VOICE—GEOFFREY BROWN

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the Lonestar Voice this week comes from Geoffrey Brown of Baytown, Texas. Here is what he has to say:

"We need to show more sympathy for these people. They travel miles in the heat, they risk their lives crossing a border. They don't get paid enough wages. They do jobs that others won't do or are afraid to do. They live in crowded conditions among a people who speak a different language. They rarely see their families, and they face adversity all day every day. No, I'm not talking about illegals; I'm talking about our troops. Doesn't it seem strange that the (politicians) are willing to lavish all kinds of social benefits on illegals, but don't support our troops and have threatened to defund them?"

Geoffrey Brown echoes the sentiments of many other Americans who wonder why so many people in Washington show more concern for illegals

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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